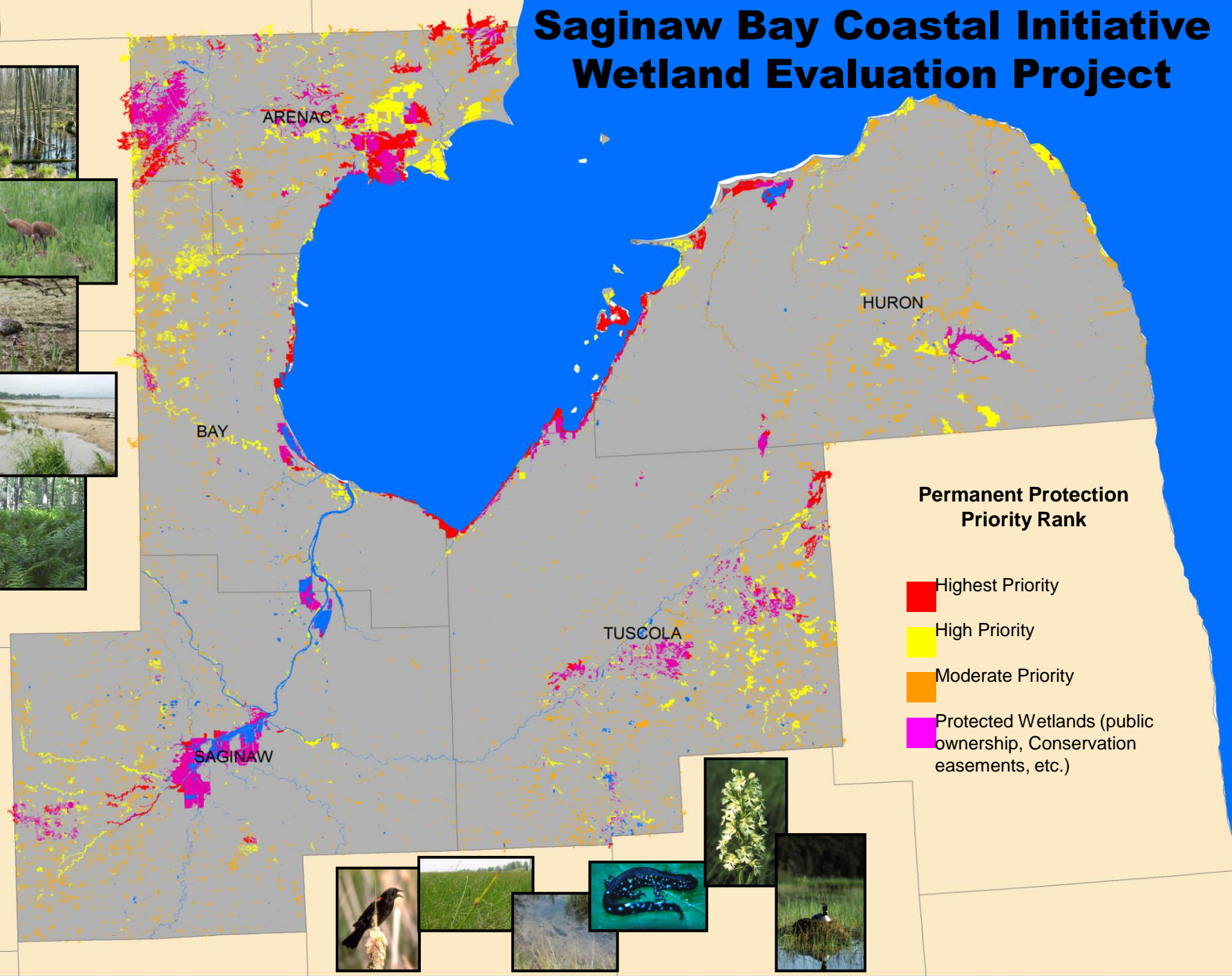


# Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative Wetland Evaluation Project



# Wetland Protection in Saginaw Bay

- As part of the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative, a group of wetland experts convened to identify areas of wetland in the Saginaw Bay area that are a high priority for protection efforts.
- This map shows the likely locations of wetlands within the five counties surrounding Saginaw Bay, according to the National Wetland Inventory.
- To focus protection efforts, wetlands were ranked to show their protection priority.
- These ranks were based on a number of criteria that define a wetland's value, such as presence of rare and imperiled species, proximity to the Lake Huron coast, amount of natural buffer surrounding the wetland, and distance from areas that have already been permanently protected.
- More information regarding this map, including how to obtain a copy can be accessed at [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq). Click on "Issues to Watch", then on "Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative"

# Why Protect Wetlands?

## *Wetlands provide:*

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Water Quality Improvements
  - Flood storage
  - Recreational value
  - Groundwater recharge
- Shoreline erosion protection
- Habitat for rare and imperiled species

## **Data Disclaimer:**

The Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative Wetland Evaluation data is intended to be used as one tool to assist in identifying wetlands that are a high priority for permanent protection, and provides only potential and approximate locations of wetlands and wetland conditions.

This data was produced, in part, from National Wetland Inventory data, updated in 2008 by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) through interpretation of aerial photos and topographic data.

This map is not intended to be used to determine the specific locations and jurisdictional boundaries of wetland areas subject to regulation under Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Only an on-site evaluation performed by the MDEQ in accordance with Part 303 shall be used for jurisdictional determinations. A permit is required from the MDEQ to conduct certain activities in wetlands regulated under Part 303.



# **WETLAND SITE SELECTION**

## **Ecological Criteria**

- Area (size of wetland)
- Proximity to Streams and Tributaries
  - Landscape Context
- Important Migratory Bird Areas

## **Biological and Social Criteria**

- Proximity to Protected Areas
- Significant Biological Features (rare species)
  - Coastal Wetlands Below the 585 Contour
    - Isolated Wetlands

***POINTS ASSIGNED TO EACH CRITERIA FOR RANKING PURPOSES***

# Existing Wetland Types In Saginaw Bay Coastal Counties

Table 11		
Wetland type	Complete data set	
	# wetlands	% total
Emergent	4239	17.43%
Forested	11667	47.97%
Shrub-scrub	6679	27.46%
Unconsolidated bottom	1538	6.32%
Misc	199	0.82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24322</b>	

# 

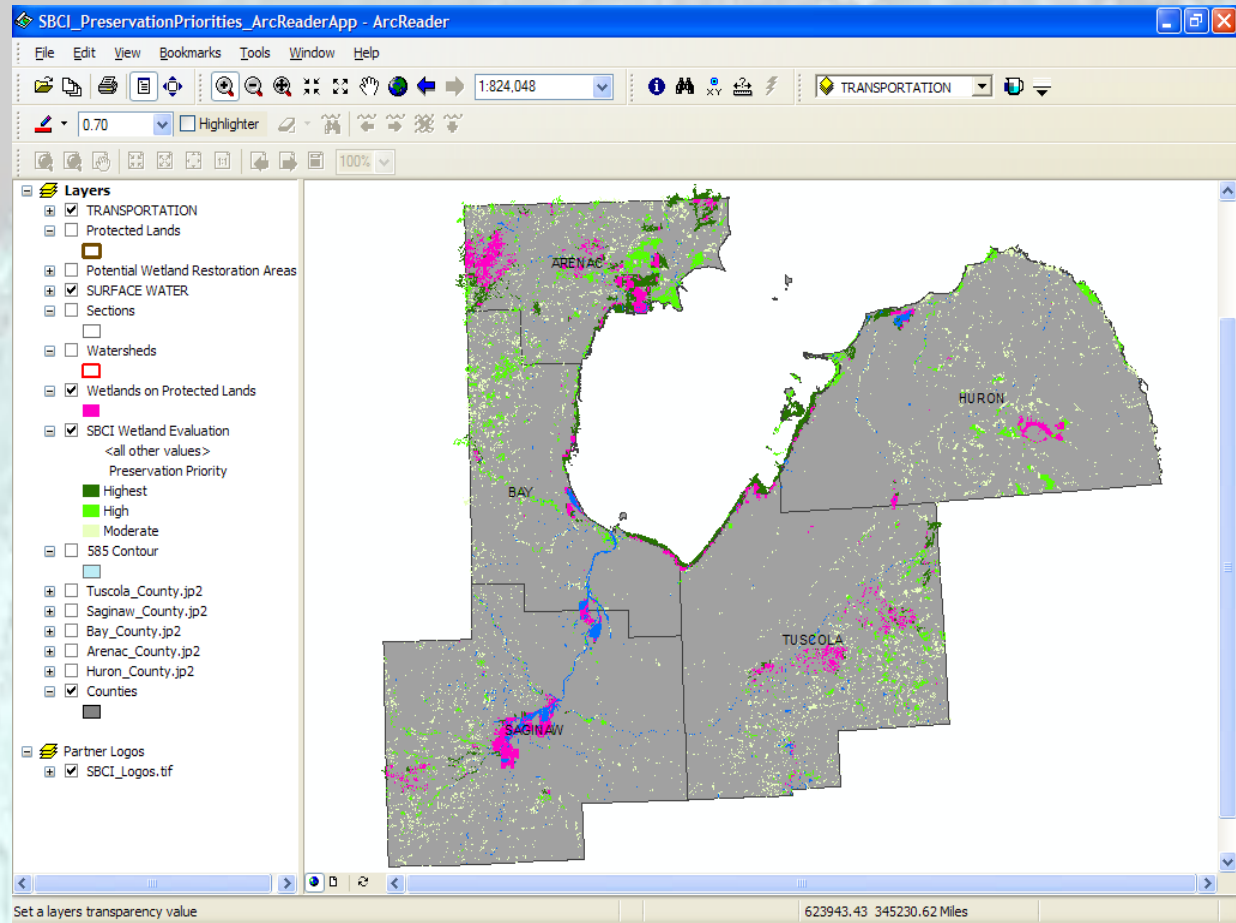
**Table 12**

	Highest priority wetland sites		All wetland sites	
County	# sites	% total	# sites	% total
Arenac	36	24.16%	2993	14.93%
Bay	16	10.74%	3921	19.56%
Huron	21	14.09%	2294	11.44%
Saginaw	24	16.11%	6028	30.07%
Tuscola	56	37.58%	4812	24.00%

# Accessing the Results

***The results of the SBCI Wetland Evaluation are Available to the public in two ways:***

- Paper Maps by County or Township
- Interactive Mapping system

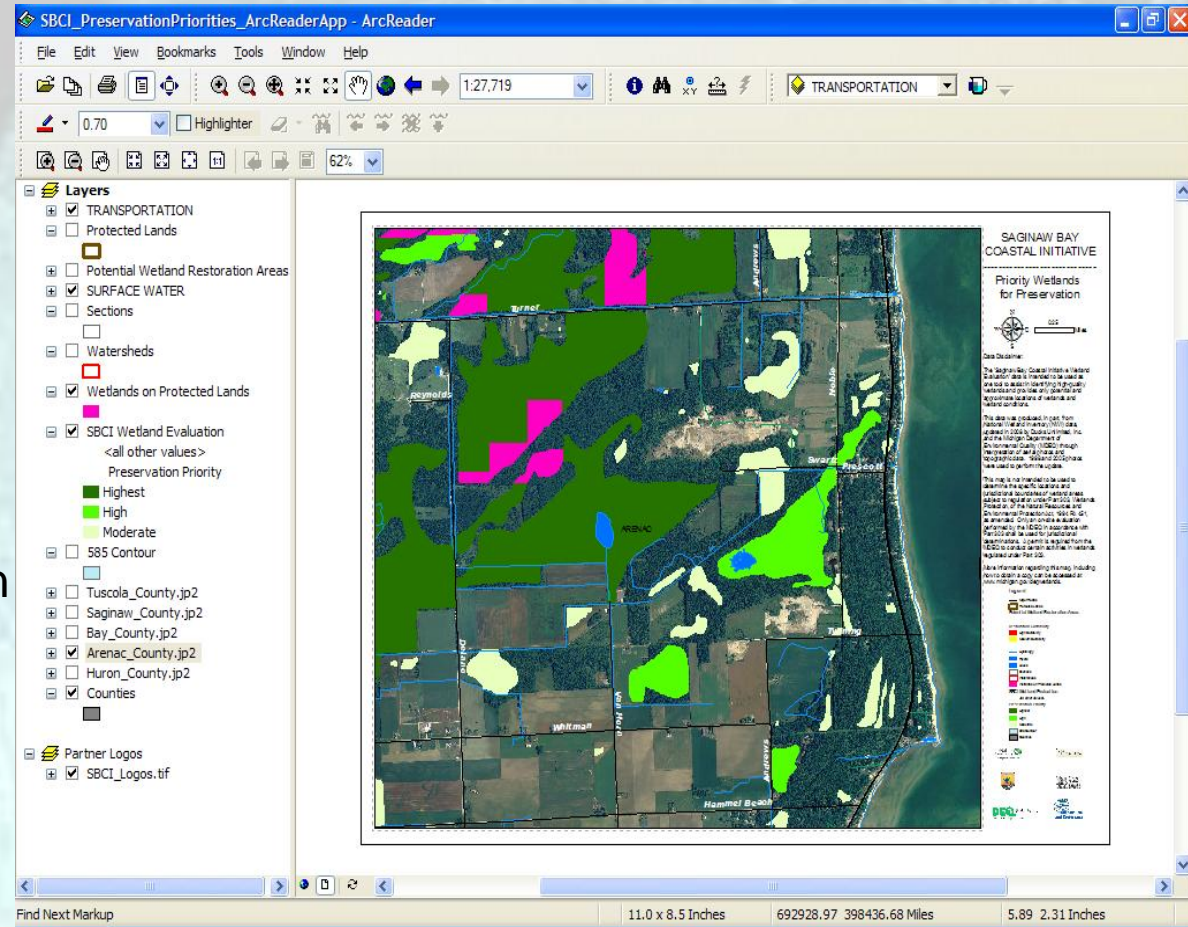




# Interactive Mapping System (Arcreader)

## *The Interactive Mapping System includes:*

- Wetland Evaluation Results
- Aerial Photos
- Graphic Map Output
- Zoom In/Out Capability
- Toggling of Map Layers
- Potential Wetland Restoration Areas
- Protected Land Information
- Surface Water Features
- Location of the 585 Contour



For more information:

## CONTACTS

**Tracy Collin**, DEQ-Land and Water Management Division at  
[collint@michigan.gov](mailto:collint@michigan.gov) (517-241-4506)

**Jim Bredin**, Office of the Great Lakes at  
[bredinj@michigan.gov](mailto:bredinj@michigan.gov) (517-335-3242)

For copies of the final maps and manual, please contact the  
Environmental Assistance Center at  
[deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov) (1-800-662-9278)

# ***SBCI PARTNERS***



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